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NORTH KOREA CLAIMS RAPID ECONOMIC RECOVERY

COAL PRODUCTION ALREADY DOUBLE PREWAR LEVEL -- Peiping, Kung-jen Jih-pao, 1 Jan 54

P'yongyang, 30 December (Hsin-hua) -- In a recent interview with a Tass reporter, Kim Tu-sam, Minister of Heavy Industry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, reviewed the progress made in the economic rehabilitation in North Korea during the preceding 5 months. Kim said, in part:

"The last 5-month period was only a preparatory phase for the large-scale rehabilitation work that will begin in 1954. During the last 5 months, our government has surveyed the damage, drafted reconstruction plans, cleared debris, and repaired the damaged factories. Repairs on all of the factories belonging to the Ministry of Heavy Industry have been completed and they have resumed operations. One of our steel mills produced the first postwar steel products only 55 days after the Korean truce. The coal production is already double the [Korean] prewar level, and the production of mineral ores is also rising steadily. We are paying special attention to the mechanization of mining operations and to the prospecting for new mineral deposits.

"Along with the rehabilitation of damaged industrial facilities, North Korea plans to build many new factories, including Korea's first automobile plant which will begin production in 1957. We are also constructing a new machine factory which will begin production of machine tools next year [1954]."

USSR SENDS GEOLOGISTS TO NORTH KOREA -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 7 Dec 53

The Soviet Union sent a group of top-ranking geologists to North Korea to help the North Korean government with the survey of mineral resources in North Korea. The survey has been very fruitful. For example, Soviet geologists assisted in the discovery of additional mineral veins in the Komdok and the Songch'on mines [both of which produce gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc] whose production has been dwindling for the last several years.

As a result of Soviet technical assistance and modern electric drilling machines and equipment, the North Korean mining operations doubled in efficiency.

NEW AUTOMOBILE FACTORY UNDER CONSTRUCTION -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 26 Jan 54

P'yongyang, 23 January (Hsin-hua) -- Construction of the first automobile manufacturing factory in Korea is in progress. The factory, when completed in 1957, will produce 6,000 cars annually.

COMMODITY PRICES CUT THREE TIMES IN 1953 -- Peiping, Kung-jen Jih-pao, 3 Jan 54

According to a Tass dispatch of 1 January from P'yongyang based on the report of the Choson Chungang T'ongsin-sa, state-fixed prices on the daily necessities were reduced three times in North Korea during 1953 -- in March, July, and December. The March reduction covered some 50 commodities while the July reduction included 30 additional items, and the December reduction, 30 more. Major price cuts were on food items, especially meat products, and on shoes.

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The lowering of state prices has induced a general downward trend in market prices. According to figures compiled by the P'yongyang Statistics Bureau, the general market price as of 1 May 1953 declined to 67 percent, while that of 1 December 1953, to 43 percent of the level of 1 May 1952.

MONGOLIA SENDS INCREASING AMOUNTS OF HORSES AND MEATS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 7 Dec 53

During 1951, the Mongolian People's Republic gave 7,000 head of horses and large quantities of furs, skins, and cotton materials to North Korea. During 1952, the republic continued to send gifts to North Korea and gave 70,000 head of domestic animals plus a sizeable quantity of meat products. During January 1953, the Mongolian People's Republic sent 1,000 tons of grains, 700 tons of meats, and a large amount of clothing. Throughout 1953, the people of Mongolia staged successive production-increase campaigns in an effort to send more gifts to North Korea.

Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 31 Jan 54

During August 1953, Mongolia sent 17,000 draft and breeding horses to North Korea as a gift. Mongolia is preparing for additional shipments of 10,000 pelts, 15,000 pieces of boot leather, 8,000 pieces of shoe leather, 500 pieces of shoe-sole leather, and 1,000 tons of meats.

CHINESE LOCOMOTIVES DOUBLE RAIL TRANSPORT -- Peiping, Kung-jen Jih-pao, 15 Jan 54

P'yongyang, 14 January (Hsin-hua) -- The volume of freight transported by railroads has increased noticeably in various areas in North Korea since the arrival of the first shipment of locomotives sent by the People's Republic of China. The daily tonnage transported doubled that of 1953 in some regions.

48 KOREANS TRAINED AT CHINESE STEEL MILL -- Peiping, Kung-jen Jih-pao, 15 Jan 54

The 48 Korean apprentices who completed their technical training at the Shih-ching-shan Steelworks started home on 12 January. They have been in training at this steel mill since January 1953.

Before they came to China, some of these men were guerrillas, some middle-school students, some peasants; only a few of them were skilled workers. But in the short period of a year most of these men became full-fledged technicians -- 22 of them became 4th grade technicians; 18 became 5th grade; 6 became 6th grade; and 2 made 7th grade.

COMPLETES REPAIR ON TRANSFORMER -- Peiping, Kung-jen Jih-pao, 31 Jan 54

Repair work on one of the 41 transformers which were demolished by the US bombings at the Hungnam Fertilizer Factory has been completed and the transformer was put into service on 14 December 1953. This 4,500-horsepower transformer had been inoperative since it was damaged 16 months ago. The workers at this fertilizer factory immediately proceeded to repair all other transformers.

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